



# PSC NEWS

## Missouri Public Service Commission

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Contact: Kevin Kelly

Phone: (573) 751-9300

Governor Office Building, Suite 900

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### PSC CALLING SCOPES TASK FORCE TO HOLD FIRST MEETING

Jefferson City (May 26, 2004)---A task force established by the Missouri Public Service Commission to investigate the Metropolitan Calling Area Plan (MCA) and rural calling scopes in Missouri, will hold its first meeting on **June 15, 2004**. The meeting, starting at 10:00 a.m., will be held in Room 315 of the Governor Office Building (200 Madison Street) in Jefferson City.

The Governor Office Building meets accessibility standards required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Anyone needing additional accommodations to participate in this meeting should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the meeting.

The Commission believes that a task force will be able to address the status of the MCA and rural calling scopes in Missouri. This task force is to suggest improvements and highlight impediments to any suggested improvements. The task force format is expected to facilitate the free exchange of ideas among interested parties.

The Commission anticipates that this task force will investigate and consider whether the MCA plan, and calling scopes in general, should be amended, and if so, how. The task force is expected to explore the costs of modifying or expanding the MCA and then determine whether consumers would consider the benefits sufficient to outweigh the costs.

The Commission has directed the task force to focus on the following topics: 1) in urban and suburban settings, what type of calling scopes, prices, and plans are desired by customers? 2) in rural settings, what type of calling scopes, prices and plans are desired by customers? 3) what changes, if any, should be made to the current MCA plan? 4) what changes, if any, should be taken to expand calling scopes in rural areas?

The Commission's order states: "In addressing these questions, the Task Force should consider the popularity and impact of existing calling plans and alternative forms of communication, including long distance calling plans, wireless telephones, Voice over Internet technologies and other items. Also, the Task Force should evaluate how the recent phenomenon of local number portability impacts the provision of MCA. If the Task Force recommends any specific Commission action, the Task Force should evaluate whether legislation is needed in order for the Commission to take such action."

The task force is expected to conduct public meetings across the state in order to get public input on these issues. The task force chairman is John Van Eschen, Manager of the PSC Telecommunications Department.

MCA is a service allowing expanded calling in the Kansas City, Springfield and St. Louis metropolitan areas. For a flat monthly rate, subscribing customers can call neighboring exchanges toll-free.

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